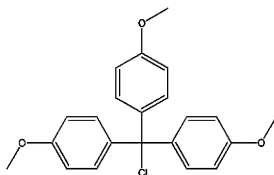


REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application. Claim 4 was amended in Applicants' Second Preliminary Amendment and Response to Second Restriction Requirement, which was filed on February 20, 2007. Entry and consideration of that amendment is respectfully requested. As explained in that previous response, the amendment particularly specifies that the TRANCE/RANK inhibitor is a compound of Formula I, and is supported in the specification as filed, *e.g.*, at page 5, lines 11-27. No new matter has been introduced.

In their previous Response, Applicants' elected, with traverse, to pursue the species of compounds satisfying chemical Formula I in this application. The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment indicates, however, that a single species of Formula I must also be elected, including all relevant R groups. Applicants thank the Examiner for clarification of this point, and apologize for the previous misunderstanding. In order to be fully responsive, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the species of Formula IA. Applicants note that this chemical formula, including all of its relevant R groups, is set forth on page 41 of the application as follows:



(Formula IA)

Claims 1-5 are all believed to read on this elected species.

The above election is being made in order to be fully responsive to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement for a species election, and reserve the right to petition therefrom under 37 C.F.R. §1.144. Under Patent Office

examining procedures, “if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims directed to distinct or individual inventions.” M.P.E.P. § 803. The species designated in this and the previous Official Action are interrelated as directed to compounds that inhibit TRANCE/RANK activity, and methods using the same to treat disorders and/or modulate cell activities. The different species of compounds recited in the claims do not, htereore, define methods or compositions which are sufficiently distinct to warrant separate examination and searches. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Requirement for Restriction be withdrawn, and that Applicants be permitted to pursue claims corresponding to any and/or all species of compounds set forth in the currently pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 18, 2007

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